

Happy Birthday America!

# The Elba Clipper

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## The Real Reason We Celebrate The Fourth of July Holiday

(Editor's Note: The following article was first published in the July 4, 1991 issue of *The Elba Clipper*. It was written by Katie R. Hodge, who was a staff writer for the *Clipper* at that time.)

The holiday we celebrate tomorrow, Fourth of July, is often overshadowed by cook-outs, red, white and blue decorations, and beach trips. But the real significance of this date in history has deep meaning for each of us. A brief history of the years preceding the Declaration of Independence is in order to understand the day we celebrate as Independence Day.

The colonists experienced the French and Indian War, the Boston Massacre, the "shot heard 'round the world" at Lexington and the battle of Concord, the battle at Bunker and Breed's Hill before the Declaration of Independence, before the Revolution and certainly before we were established as a country with a workable Constitution.

Thirteen colonies divided themselves into separate entities. Many feared a federation system of government in which one body could control the whole, especially a foreign body.

Great Britain, in an effort to retain control over the colonies, passed a series of acts to restrict personal and economic freedoms. Among these were the Stamp Act, which taxed everyday items such as legal documents, playing cards, liquor, and newspapers. Next came the Quartering Act, which forced colonists to house British troops,

and furnish them with household supplies. The Townshend Acts followed with duties on glass, lead, painters' colors, tea, paper, all to be collected at American ports as the supplies came in. Act after act served as a slap in the face of the colonists.

The East India Company gained

a virtual monopoly over the tea trade. Adding insult to injury, the tea was to be taxed. This enraged patriots and what followed is known in infamy as the Boston Tea Party. In their own indignation, Britain passed the Intolerable Acts, which among other things, closed the Boston harbor.

In response, the First Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in September of 1774. Fifty-six newly elected delegates declared the Intolerable Acts, as well as the English Parliament, null and void.

Pamphlets flooded the streets of colonial towns. Among the authors of such was Thomas Paine, perhaps the most effective, in his "Common Sense." He urged America to break ties with the Mother Country. Radicals also urged for a fight for freedom, but Conservatives wanted to wait, saying that the people had not called for independence, the middle colonies were not ready for it, and a host of other reasons.

The Second Continental Con-

gress met in May 1775. A staunch radical, John Hancock, was elected President. An army was organized with George Washington as its head. Also included in this session was a desire for a well-written official document proclaiming the colonists' independence from Great Britain. A committee of four radicals, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Roger Sherman, and one moderate, Robert R. Livingston, was chosen for this task. Our nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson, penned what is now called the Declaration of Independence. Intense debate saw words changed, and clauses omitted until finally, all delegates were pleased with the document. Two votes were taken and in the final, all colonies except one, New York, voted to pass the Declaration of July, 1776. The final draft was adopted. Though not signed until later, his date was then, and still today is, symbolic of the decision to break away and become an independent country.

Jefferson's words acted as a catalyst of change. With this document, he forever changed the lives of people, and the government of the land.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Copies of the Declaration began to appear in cities and towns across the land. The radicals had won! Or had they? Peace was nowhere in sight, but times had taken a turn for the better in the eyes of the patriots. The soon-to-be country was on its way to freedom. General Washington had the Declaration read to his troops. They were all too aware of the burden they were to bear. Soldiers ranged in age, rearing and wealth, just as soldiers today do. All too often we magnify the feats and glories of old by attaching a godly sense to historical figures. Men were men and hot was hot in July of 1776, just as they are in July of 1997 (Date updated from original article) and all the years in

evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."

between. Men, women and children felt happiness, pain and sorrow just as we do today. They shouldered problems and burdens. "Nothing new under the sun" is an apt observation when looking back to colonial times.

It is hard to imagine such a drastic change in life as we know it. Modern day America is immersed in status quo to some degree. The patriots and colonial Americans of old had everyday duties and lives, just as we do. But their very existence was threatened when they took on their dream. "The Spirit of '76" is captured in the tale of John Hancock, who signed his name large on the Declaration so that the British could read it without putting on spectacles.

History often challenges the purpose of those fifty-six delegates in Philadelphia. The fact that the majority of them were wealthy, agricultural based men seems to preclude the fact that they were lovers of freedom and choice. But what better men to lead the fight? They were able to lend resources to the cause and to use personal ingenuity to organize. Perhaps they did gain a life of bondage. Perhaps some did capitalize on circumstances, but human nature persists even today. This would truly make them Fathers of our country. Despite the argument, America is first and fore-

most a salvage for those without, those in need, and those that dream. What were those fifty-six if not dreamers? They dreamed and fought, if profiting along the way, and paved a path for us today. The document that was read to the citizens of the colonies and the soldiers of the army is the same one in all history books today with not one word changed.

Perhaps there was a bit of fate involved in our country's struggle for independence. John Locke, an English philosopher, wrote several treatises of government in the seventeenth century. Many of our nation's founders were all versed in Locke's writings. In these he wrote certain unalienable rights, given by God. He called these natural rights. He included that these rights should be abridged by no one. He believed that a government should be created to protect those rights, and when government failed to do so, the people had the right to build a new government. What do these words mean to us? They are the very essence of our heritage. But those are the words of an Englishman. Paine?

Perhaps. How wonderfully ironic that one of the Mother Country's own would plant the seeds of the destruction of the British colonies. Perhaps those were not merely the words of an Englishman, but the words of a human, not likely to enjoy a life of bondage. Perhaps some did capitalize on circumstances, but human nature persists even today. This would truly make them Fathers of our country. Despite the argument, America is first and fore-

## Appeal denied Grantham's killer

by Marvin McLain - Editor

After more than 18 years, Coffee County Sheriff Neil Grantham's killer is still appealing his death sentence.

His latest request for permission to appeal his death sentence was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Ira DeMent on Wednesday, June 25, 1997.

Federal law now requires that a death row inmate ask permission from a federal appeals court before seeking a second federal appeal to their death sentence.

In 1981, Billy Joe Magwood, 45, was sentenced to die in the state's electric chair after being convicted of the shooting death of Sheriff Grantham.

On the morning of March 1,

1979, Magwood gunned down Grantham in front of the Coffee County Jail which was located, at that time, in Elba, AL.

In July of 1983, just two days before his scheduled execution, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta granted Magwood a stay.

A resentencing hearing was ordered for Magwood in 1983 by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. After the hearing was held in Elba in 1986, Magwood was once again sentenced to death by electrocution in the state's electric chair.

In 1988, both the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals and the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the 1986 court decision.

Magwood is currently on death row in the Holman Correctional Facility located in Airmore, AL.



GRAND OLD OPRY STARS - THE OSBORNE BROTHERS - will appear at the Heart of Dixie Music Park in Elba July 4 and 5. The former Country Music Vocal Group of the Year award winners, best known for their Rocky Top recording, will be performing twice daily. . . . Also performing will be one of the top gospel groups in the nation, the Isaacs. The Isaacs will appear Saturday only. . . . Other groups scheduled to appear will be the internationally known New Coon Creek Girls, and from Branson, Mo., the Baldridge Family. . . . Regional bands will include the White Sands Panhandle Band, Cedar Creek, Dixie Breeze and Tugboat Jerry. Festival begins with a night of gospel music on Thursday, July 3. For program schedule call 897-8349.



SWEEPING THE STREETS... Elba's street department is sporting a new street sweeper. The sweeper, an Elgin Model Pelican P, was recently purchased at a cost of \$70,667.20. Monday morning workers were becoming familiar with the machine, adjusting brushes and putting the machine into operation. Donnie Morrow, Elba City Clerk, stated that regular schedule will be initiated after a time frame of operation is established with the new machine. Residents are being asked not to place trash (leaves, tree limbs, etc.) in the street. It hinders the street sweeping operation.

## NEWS BRIEF

The Coffee County - Enterprise Division grand jury met in regular session on Monday, June 30. Members of the grand jury reviewed evidence in 139 presentations. The grand jury returned 105 indictments and of those, 98 were felonies and 7 were misdemeanors; 22 were no bills. Arraignments for those individuals indicted are set for July 29, 1997. Also, District Attorney Mark Fuller is requesting a special grand jury to hear evidence in the ongoing investigation concerning the City of Enterprise's Department of Leisure Services. The exact date for the special grand jury is not known but is expected some time prior to year end when the investigation should be complete.

## Buckle up & drive sober troopers warn

Alabama State Troopers encourage motorists to drive with caution during the Fourth of July holiday period, using seat belts, securing children in child safety seats and obeying all traffic laws.

Troopers also urge holiday travelers to refrain from drinking and driving to avoid the deadly consequences of driving drunk.

According to Department of Public Safety reports, at least 348 people died in alcohol-related traffic crashes during 1996.

Public Safety estimates 18 people will be killed in traffic wrecks during the 78-hour Fourth of July travel period that begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 3, and ends at midnight Sunday, July 6.

In 1996, six people died as a result of traffic wrecks during the 102-hour July Fourth holiday period, five on rural roads and one in an urban area.

Only one of the wreck victims was using a seat belt, and at least four of the deaths were alcohol related.

During the Fourth of July period, federal overtime grants aimed at speed limit and DUI enforcement will allow all available troopers to be on duty.

Troopers will concentrate patrols on heavily traveled vacation and beach routes, including interstates statewide, U.S. 231 and 331 south of Montgomery.

## HAPPENINGS

**COUNCIL MEETING** The New Brockton Town Council will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the council chamber located in the New Brockton Town Hall.

**FREEDOM FEST** The annual Freedom Fest will be held at Ft. Rucker on Friday (TOMORROW), July 4, beginning at 4:00 p.m. on the Center Parade Field on Novosel Street. There will be lots of activities throughout the evening with a fireworks display set to music at 9:00 p.m. The event is free and is open to the public.

**HOLIDAY CLOSING** The City of Elba offices will be closed Friday (TOMORROW) July 4, in observance of the 4th of July holiday. There will be standby crews for emergencies with water, sewer, street and electrical. To report these emergencies call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555. The garbage collection schedule will be as follows: Monday's route - unchanged; Tuesday's route - unchanged; Thursday's route will be picked up on Wednesday; Friday's route will be picked up on Thursday.

## ATTENTION FARMERS

There will be a Farmers Market every Saturday during the growing season. Farmers are invited to bring their excess produce to the square in downtown Elba. Parking will be made available inside the courthouse square.

## Start of AL Hwy. 189 project announced by State DOT

The Alabama Department of Transportation announced last Thursday, June 26, that work has begun on AL Highway 189 north of Elba.

Motorists should be aware that Couch, Incorporated of Dothan, AL has begun planning, widening, resurfacing and striping on Hwy. 189 from Elba to the Crenshaw County line.

All necessary traffic control devices are being installed and will remain on the project until all work is completed. A pilot car will be utilized to safely guide traffic through the construction area.

Motorists are urged to use extreme caution and reduce speed through the work zone. Any public inquiry concerning the work should be directed to: Winston Stone, Superintendent Couch, Inc. @ (334)222-7107; Mark J. Graham, AL DOT District Engineer @ (334)347-8166; or Randall C. Hall, AL DOT Project Engineer @ (334)774-8502.

BE CAREFUL



## BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Boxing fans are taking sides following the so-called heavyweight championship boxing match last weekend. Mike Tyson got a guarantee of \$30 million dollars to fight, but apparently decided things were a bit rough for a fight by the rules and proceeded to bite off part of the ear of the champ. Needless to say, after the fight was stopped, his lawyers and other advisors got to the former jail bird, and he was full of apology. We should voice no opinion, since boxing is not of any interest in this corner... in fact if the details were not on prime time news, we would never have known about the whole messy affair.

P.S. Feel kinda sorry for those folks who paid \$50 on pay TV to watch a boxing match and had to watch Mike Tyson make a mockery of boxing and society in general. Somewhere along the way he fell short in character development and the accompanying self discipline.

Alabama's Governor Fob James is getting some attention for Alabama. However it is not necessarily what the state needs. During the past week legal experts have said his call for a federal judge to defy the Supreme Court is... well it is laughable and unwise. His stand on prayer, etc. is to be commended as a personal commitment. However, someone in this leadership position needs to show signs of obeying man's law also. Defying the law because he doesn't agree with it sets a bad example for the younger generation that is in the middle of setting a course for their life and being pressured from all sides, and from the devil himself, to take the easy road.

Convicted killer Billy Joe Magwood is still appealing his death sentence for the 1979 killing of Coffee County Sheriff Neil Grantham. That is 19 years after he was arrested for shooting to death my good friend minutes after he drove two blocks from the Clipper office. The man has family in this area and they surely feel for him as most anyone else feels for loved ones, however, Neil was a friend, a good friend to many of us, he was shot down in cold blood for no real reason, other than the fact he was the sheriff and responsible for keeping the jail doors locked when the courts assigned lawbreakers to one of his cells. No, no the appeals have gone on much too long.

Hong Kong has been turned back to the Chinese, after more than 150 years of control by the British. We have watched for months as the Far East financial center seemed to ignore the coming control by the mainland communists. Frankly, if any of our money had been over there, we would have gotten it out a year or so ago. Our thoughts would have been that we were getting out ahead of the panic - which never developed.

Apparently all area school systems did fairly well on the recent SAT scores. It is known that the three systems in Coffee County did well. That may be good and it may be bad. One school system in the Black Belt got very low grades last year and administrators were warned to get their act together. Well, they did and now are being questioned to see if they spent too much time preparing for the tests! Folks, there is a case of you can't win for losing.

Our new computer and add-ons finally arrived Thursday. It was weird last Thursday. The fog wouldn't let our insured land at the Elba airport. They went to Dothan to wait. It cleared in Elba by 9 a.m., but by then they couldn't leave Dothan because of... the fog had moved in on that area. They finally got here about noon. Yep, we do know where the on-off switch is located and didn't even have to put a sticker on it to remind us. To say we know how to use the stuff, would be an untruth and an insult to your intelligence, but we are working on the learning part. The book says this new stuff is actually capable of changing O.J.'s shoes, just like they suggested in that California courtroom.

**THANKS FROM TAYLOR'S**  
(Formerly PaPa's Grocery)

We would like to thank our customers for helping our business to grow during the past months.

**IN APPRECIATION, WE ARE GIVING AWAY A BOX OF KELLEY'S RIBS ON AUG. 1.**

Customers may register each time they visit the store.

We invite all our old customers - and new ones - to come see us!

Taylor's Grocery - 1595 Caroline St. - Elba.

**RiCay Jewelers**

THREE CHEERS FOR THE RED, WHITE & BLUE!

**Have A Safe & Happy 4th**

**ALLTEL**  
AUTHORIZED AGENT

317 W. Davis  
Elba, AL 36323

In-Store Repairs  
897-3776

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$15.00 Per Year  
6 Months - \$8.00 - Including City & State Tax  
Alabama Counties - \$17.00 Per Year - Including Tax  
6 Months - \$9.00  
Outside Alabama - \$18.00 Per Year - 6 Months - \$10.00



**RETIRING AFTER 43 YEARS...** J. R. Brunson, President of The National Security Group, Inc., announced the retirement of Edna T. Smart after 43 years of continuous service. Mrs. Smart is a life-time resident of Coffee County and resides in Elba with her husband, Paul. They have one son, Larry, a daughter-in-law, Sandi, and one very special granddaughter, Misty. Edna and Paul are very active in the First Assembly of God. Upon retirement, they plan to enjoy activities with the church's "Primetrainers," travel, fish and best of all, spend lots of time being grandparents to Misty. Monday, June 30, was Edna's last day at National Security. Brunson said, "She will certainly be missed by all at National Security."



**ELBA LIONS CLUB 1997-98 OFFICERS...** On Tuesday evening, June 24, 1997, Lion Fran Miles installed the new Lion leadership. Those participating in the ceremony are pictured above. They are (l-r): front row - Fran Miles, installer; Grady Harris, 1st Vice; Charles Eastburn, 2nd Vice; Charles Farris, 3rd Vice; Charles Eastburn, 4th Vice; Charles Farris, 5th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 6th Vice; Charles Farris, 7th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 8th Vice; Charles Farris, 9th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 10th Vice; Charles Farris, 11th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 12th Vice; Charles Farris, 13th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 14th Vice; Charles Farris, 15th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 16th Vice; Charles Farris, 17th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 18th Vice; Charles Farris, 19th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 20th Vice; Charles Farris, 21st Vice; Charles Eastburn, 22nd Vice; Charles Farris, 23rd Vice; Charles Eastburn, 24th Vice; Charles Farris, 25th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 26th Vice; Charles Farris, 27th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 28th Vice; Charles Farris, 29th Vice; Charles Eastburn, 30th Vice; Charles Farris, 31st Vice; Charles Eastburn, 32nd Vice; Charles Farris, 33rd Vice; Charles Eastburn, 34th Vice; Charles Farris, 35th Vice; 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## Social and Community News

### Miss Marsh to wed Mr. Cotney Saturday, July 5

Miss Lori Marsh will become the bride of Mr. Larry Cotney on Saturday, July 5 at 2:00 in the afternoon at the Elba United Methodist Church.

The reception will follow in the church fellowship hall. All friends and relatives are invited to attend.

### New Arrival

**JORDAN SHANE KIDD**  
Daniel and Heather Kidd announce the birth of a son, Jordan Shane Kidd, on May 15, 1997, at Columbia Regional Hospital in Andalusia.

Jordan weighed 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and was 21 inches long. He is welcomed home by a brother, Justin.



Jordan Shane Kidd

**Bridal Registry**  
**Bradley's Gift**  
• Crystal Stemware  
• China  
• Flatware  
305 Collier - 897-3422

### Annual Watermelon Festival to be held at Southeast Pioneer Village

The Southeast Pioneer Village, Hwy. 231, eight miles north of Troy is having its annual Watermelon Festival, Saturday, July 5, 1997, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be a variety of arts and crafts, food and etc. booths, children's games, local entertainment, store door prizegift certificates. Wagon rides in the afternoon.

The 1997 Alabama Watermelon Queen, Ms. Vanney Deneas Alums, will be giving out tree slices of watermelon and will participate in the Watermelon Festival entertainment activities. Bring your own lawn chairs and enjoy a day of family fun and activities. Free admission. Arts, crafts, food, and etc. booths available. Schools, churches, and charity organizations' booths are free. For information call: 334-807-3794 / 334-566-3896 or to leave a message 334-566-9970/334-484-9141.

### Rufe Johnson Family Reunion to be held

The annual Rufe Johnson family reunion will be held July 12 at the Senior Citizens building in New Brockton.

The reunion will get underway at 10 a.m.

All relatives and friends are invited.



Pictured (l-r): Mrs. Grace Wilkerson, grandmother of bride-elect; Mrs. DeLoris Marsh, mother of bride-elect; Lori Marsh, honoree; Mrs. Beth Cotney, mother of future groom; and Mrs. Gwen Marsh, grandmother of bride-elect.

### Miss Lori Marsh honored with miscellaneous bridal shower, Sunday June 22

Miss Lori Marsh, bride-elect of Mr. Larry Cotney, was honored at a miscellaneous bridal shower on Sunday, June 22, at Aunt B's Bed and Breakfast. The happy occasion was attended by many friends and relatives.

Mrs. Barbara Hudson, owner and hostess of Aunt B's, greeted the guests and presented them to the receiving line composed of Miss Marsh; her mother, DeLoris Marsh; her grandmothers, Mrs. Gwen Marsh and Mrs. Grace Wilkerson; and Mrs. Beth Cotney, mother of the future groom.

Guests were registered by Mrs. Marsha Free, cousin of the bride-to-be.

Delicious refreshments were served from a beautiful dining table. Lovely mixed spring flowers were used throughout the rooms of the home where the guests visited and viewed the many useful gifts.

Hostesses for the occasion were Mrs. Tommy Dowberry, Mrs. James Maddox, Mrs. Austin Mixon, Mrs. Barbara Blair, Mrs. Don Mack, Mrs. Tommy Morrow, Mrs. Don Flowers, Mrs. Randy Besdole, Mrs. Donnie Daugherty, Mrs. Vivian Lee, Mrs. Ted Vaughan, Mrs. Barry Giles, Mrs. Elaine Semonelle, Mrs.

Neel Manning, Mrs. Patsy Matthews, Mrs. Kenneth Strong, Mrs. Bobby Hudson, and Mrs. Paul Stroud.



Rebecca Morrow

### Rebecca Morrow participates dance recital

Rebecca Morrow, four-year-old daughter of Joe and Wendy Morrow of Ball Ground, Ga., participated in her second-year dance recital on May 17.

Present to watch her perform were her grandparents, Don and Rebecca Morrow of Elba.

### Cynthia Lawford graduates from AU recently

Cynthia Lawford of Elba received a BSN in graduation ceremonies held May 31 at Auburn University.

She was also on the Dean's List. To be included on the Dean's List at Auburn for the quarter, a student must have taken at least 12 hours of course work and must have maintained a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

### Homecoming and revival to be held at Chestnut Grove Methodist Church

Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church will celebrate Homecoming on July 13. Rev. Dan Flanagan, pastor, Albany, Ga., will bring the message. The service will begin at 11 a.m.

A covered dish luncheon will follow.

**REVIVAL**  
A revival will follow Homecoming at Chestnut Grove UMC, on July 14, 15 and 16, beginning at 7 o'clock each evening.

Rev. Ben Abbott will be the speaker.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Southeast Insurance & Real Estate now on Web

Southeast Insurance & Real Estate, Inc. is now on the internet, according to Ronnie K. Young, owner/broker.

Mr. Young stated that Southeast is one of the first real estate agencies in this part of southeast Alabama to be on the Worldwide Web. This technology allows real estate customers from anywhere in the U.S. or the world, to view Southeast Ins. & Real Estate's home page and real estate listings.

The prospective customer must have access to a computer that is on-line to the Worldwide Web, and by "surfing the net," can utilize various real estate directories to locate property throughout the world.

Southeast Insurance and Real Estate can be reached on the Worldwide Web at [www.alaweb.com/~scil](http://www.alaweb.com/~scil).

### CARD OF THANKS

The family of **RUFUS L. ELLIS** would like to thank everyone for their love and support during the illness and death of our loved one. We would especially like to thank Wiregrass Hospice, Home Care Services, the staff of Medical Center Enterprise, and Dr. Rodney Williams. Everyone will always be in our prayers.

THE ELLIS FAMILY  
7-3pd

### Paper Sale!

**Copy & Laser** \$27.15  
5000 8 1/2x11  
**Computer 9x11** \$18.90  
2700 clean perf.  
**2 1/4 Add Rolls** \$7.25  
100 Rolls Case  
**Add Rolls** \$39.50  
100 Rolls Case  
**Fax Paper - (6 1/4 ctn)** \$14.65  
8 1/2 x 9 1/8 in. - 172 ctn  
\$12.15 - 146¢ - 17¢ ctn \$15.15 - 17¢ ctn \$16.15 - 17¢ ctn \$17.15 - 17¢ ctn

**WALKER**  
4 Court South • Andalusia  
222-6255 or 1-800-932-0500

### ROUND & ABOUT WITH ERIA 897-2006

**Scripture:** Obadiah 1:21  
"Thinking of you, O Lord, saying for you: Angeline Gorman, Grover Belcher Sr., Faye Manning, John E. Polinar, Helen Folmar, Cubidean Brooks, Henry Caldwell, Jim Burnette, Mandy McBride, Lisa Head, Annie Jewel Smith, Kimberly Kelley."

**Birthdays:** July - Joyce B. Johnson - July 8; Evelyn Y. Manning - July 8; Lydia Kelley - July 10; Geneva Martin - July 10.

**Youth Need To Know:**  
African American History - July 1 - 1997: On this day - July 1 - Thomas Dorsey, who will become known as the "Father of Gospel Music," is born in Villa Rica, Ga.

1962: On this day - July 2 - Thurgood Marshall, who will be the first African American U.S. Supreme Court justice, is born.

1962: On this day - July 3 - Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

1962: On this day - July 4 - Tuskegee Institute opens in Tuskegee, Ala., with Booker T. Washington as its first president.

1962: On this day - July 6, Ida B. Wells, who will become a journalist and anti-lynching advocate, is born in Holly Springs, Miss.

African American History Calendar

**Lindsey Family Reunion** will be held in Stuart, Fla., July 18, 19 and 20. The south Florida relatives will be hosting three days of activities for their mutual enjoyment.

Preview of some activities planned:  
Friday afternoon - arrivals and greetings  
Friday evening - reception and

Saturday - old-time family picnic by the water  
Saturday evening - banquet dinner and talent show  
Sunday - worship at local church; lunch buffet and farewells

Rooms will be available at the Ramada Inn of Stuart, 1200 S. Federal Highway, Stuart, Fla., 34994. Attn: Lynn - 561/287-6900; Fax: 561/286-8188; 1-800-806-8200

For more information call Christine Williamson - 561/286-6083; Al Stoudemire - 561/223-0991. Send registration fees to: Catherine Ealy, Lindsey Family Reunion, P.O. Box 641, Wabasso, FL 329870.

**Appreciation Program - An Evening of Praise** - An appreciation program, honoring Bro. Alfred Payne and family, was held at New Bethel Baptist Church, Colerene, Ala., Sunday, June 29, at 2 p.m., Rev. J.D. Ruffin, pastor.

Theme: Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord - Psalm 150:6.

Motto: "We came to praise and life His Holy Name."  
The Rocky Head M.B. Church Ensemble, Elba, was one of the guest choirs.

Those attending the occasion were Roderick Rideaux, Lavern Jones, Wiley Brooks, Juanita, Re'eta and Dee'ard; Evelyn

Manning, Freddie Culver, Pattie Marie, Tonia and Brian; Stephanie Williams, Shawn Mitchell, Samantha Williams, Marietta Carpenter and William, Derrick Duncan, Chastity Williams, Kimberly Rideaux, Keitha Williams, Aubretta Williams, Jana Kelley and Melissa Kelley.

**Singing God's Praise!**  
There will be a singing at the Southeast Singing Building in Elba, Rev. Johnny Lawrence, pastor, Saturday night, July 5, beginning at 6 p.m.

Groups: Leroy Barney and the Heavenly Voices of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Traveling Stars, Elba; Soul Gospel, Opp; Flying Clouds, Brundage; Singing Echoes, New Brockton.

There is no admission fee. Sponsors: Gene Flowers  
\*1997 Carpenter Family Reunion - Tentative Agenda

Friday, July 4:  
8 - 10 p.m. - arrival of visiting family and friends  
6 - 8 p.m. - Welcome reception on "the hill" (Host Family: Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cross).

7 p.m. - "Let everybody say amen" (Formal opening of the 1997 Carpenter Family Reunion and Friday night fish fry)

8 - 10 p.m. - "From Then Till Now" - A time to mingle with family and friends, talk about things of the past, things present and things to come.

11 p.m. - conclusion of Friday's activities  
Saturday, July 5:  
10 a.m. - arrive at Lake Frank Jackson State Park, Opp

10:45 a.m. - Pick teams for Carpenters Olympics  
11:00 a.m. - "Let the Games Begin" - Carpenter Olympics  
12:45 p.m. - awards ceremony  
1 p.m. - "Carpenter Circle" - A Prayer for the family; B - Prayer for the

1:15 until - barbecue feast  
Sunday, July 6:  
12 Noon - 3 p.m. - Rocky Head M.B. Church - program to be announced

3:15 - "Till We Meet Again" (formal closing of the 1997 Carpenter Family Reunion)

3:30 p.m. - Dinner served!  
Hattie Belle Carpenter - patriarch of the Carpenter family - and Mike Critchenden - chairperson

"Homecoming and Revival" will be held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Brantley, Rev. Carzath Hill, pastor, July 6 - 11, beginning at 7 each evening. Rev. Odell Taylor, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Citronelle, Ala., will be guest evangelist.

Order of Worship -  
10 a.m. - Sunday School; 11 a.m. - Morning Worship; 7:30 p.m. - Evening Worship. Mary H. Critchenden will bring the morning message.

Dismissal for lunch  
2:30 p.m. - Devotional by visiting officers. The guest choir will render music (Rocky Head Ensemble). Welcome, offering by visiting officers. Pastor C.L. will introduce the speaker, Rev. A.R. Williams, pastor of Rocky Head M.B. Church, Elba, and Shiloh Baptist Church, Tarentum; announcements - remarks, benediction

Revival services - 7 o'clock nightly

Monday night - July 7 - St. Matthew's Church in Christ, New Jerusalem, New Freedom, Old Mt. Zion and Greater New Zion - choir  
Tuesday night - July 8 - Spring Hill, Macedonia, Pleasant Call, New Hope, Bethlehem, Greenville and Mt. Chapel - choir

Wednesday night - July 9 - Good Hope, St. Mark, Morning Star, Mt. Moriah, Jordan Grove, and Roxanna - choir

Thursday night - July 10 - New Pilgrim, Mulberry, Friendship, Zion Chapel, Athens, Grace Chapel, Moriah - choir

Friday night - July 11 - Antioch, Oak Grove, St. Luke, Piney Grove, St. James, Little Baptist Hill - choir

Come as you are - dress - casual  
All churches are invited to worship with Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Bessie L. Coone, Grover and Ernie Belcher visited Renter (Pete) and Ruth Belcher, Hillre and Love Hooks, all of Elba, last Sunday evening.

**Annual Revival of the Oak Grove Baptist Church**, Danley's Crossroads, Elba, Rev. J. R. Parks pastor, July 13 - 18, 7:30 nightly, Rev. Antonio Baxter, evangelist for the week.

Theme: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent ye, and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15

Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
Morning service - 11:30 a.m.  
Dismissal for lunch

Sunday - 2:30 p.m. - Devotional by visiting churches. The choir will render music. Welcome. Scripture by a minister. Rev. J.R. Parks will present the speaker, Rev. A.C. Dobbie, pastor of Holly Springs Baptist Church, Troy.

Monday night - July 14 - 7:30 - Oak Grove Baptist, Elba; Ste. Stephens A.M.E., Opp; Bethel A.M.E. Elba

Tuesday night - July 15 - Elba Zion, Elba; New Zion, Elba; and Jordan Grove Baptist

Wednesday night - July 16 - Nazareth Baptist, Opp; St. Matthew A.M.E., Brantley; Mt. Zion, Brantley; Shady Grove A.M.E., Elba, and

Thursday night - July 17 - Mt. Chapel, Rose Hill, Bethlehem Baptist, Elba; Florida COGIC, Florida.

Friday night - July 18 - Piney Grove, Opp; Rocky Head Baptist, Elba; Mt. Calvary Baptist, Elba; Apostolic COGIC, Opp, and Good Hope, New Brockton

**Today is a good day!** Be grateful. ERIA

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**TWO MINUTES**  
WITH THE BIBLE  
BY CORNELIUS E. STANLEY COOPER  
BIBLE RESEARCH SOCIETY  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606

### ALL FOR US

Have you ever thought how much God has done FOR US in Christ?

In Romans 8:32 we read that to save us from sin, God "spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up FOR US all."

In Titus 2:14 we are told that Christ "gave Himself FOR US, that He might redeem us from all iniquity..."

In Romans 5:8 "While we were yet sinners, Christ died FOR US..."

Hebrews 9:12 states that "He entered into the holy place (the presence of the Father), having obtained eternal redemption FOR US." And if we trust Him for this "eternal redemption" we may read further in Hebrews 9:24 that "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God FOR US."

4:16. "If God be FOR US, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

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Dresser, mirror, bed, night stand  
\$599

**Leisure Chair** - \$229.95  
Dresser, mirror, bed, night stand  
\$149.95  
Dresser, mirror, bed, night stand  
\$119.95  
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# Open House well attended at Taylor Mill Oaks



OWNERS KATRINA AND KENNETH CALHOUN, right, are shown greeting open house visitors at Taylor Mill Oaks. The all-new assisted living facility, facing the golf course of the Elba Country Club, is the first of its kind in Elba. The piano in the background is one of many examples of the lengths management has gone to insure a home atmosphere for the residents.



OPEN HOUSE visitors registered at one of the elegant dining room tables used by residents of Taylor Mill Oaks. Above Sara Strong is shown signing the book. Several hundred area citizens were given guided tours of the facility during the afternoon.



INSPECTING the furniture in one of the bedrooms in the new Taylor Mill Oaks during the recent open house are Martha Francis and Robert Stephens.



DUDLEY LITTLETON laughs and chats with family and friends in a lounge area during the open house at Taylor Mill Oaks. Mr. Littleton, who is one of the first residents of the new facility, was doing his part to insure visitors were treated "like company."



SITTING ON THE PATIO residents and family members enjoy refreshments of punch, cookies, cake and nuts on the patio of Taylor Mill Oaks during the recent open house.



REFRESHMENTS were served Sunday afternoon open house visitors on the back lawn of Taylor Mill Oaks. Above Celia Spicer serves punch, but is momentarily distracted by several younger family members.

## NOTE OF THANKS

We would like to publicly thank State Rep. Garreth Moore and State Sen. Dwight Adams for their support in our effort to stop mail-order Medicaid in the state of Alabama. We appreciate the courtesy shown our customers as they called the homes of Adams and Moore to seek help, and we ask for the continued support of each legislator in keeping Medicaid a local and fair program for the poor, the elderly, and the children of Elba, and the Wiregrass.

WHITMAN DRUG COMPANY  
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Amount Borrowed	Monthly Payment	Loan Term	Interest Rate	Discount Fee	Origination Fee	A.P.R.
\$75,000	\$498.98	30 years variable	7.00%	0	1%	8.680%

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## BIG SALE

4 & 5 July

Guy's Used Mower & Flea Market

DOWNTOWN ELBA  
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## Teri Finder is on Dean's List

Teri Finder has been named to the Dean's List at Maryville College. She is a fourth-year student. To be named to the list, students must achieve a grade point average of 3.25 or higher. Maryville College is a four-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Teri is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Finder of Elba.

## Area students receive degrees from TSU

Receiving degrees in recent graduation ceremonies at Troy State University were:

Elba: Christie Crook Greer - Special Education - LD; and Regina Rochelle Kelley - Elementary Education

Kinston: Andrea Nicole Bradley - Rehabilitation

Construction Company. He has distinguished himself by winning other scholarships and membership in Sigma Lambda Honors Fraternity. He plans to graduate in June, 1998.

The ACIA Foundation selects two junior level students annually who have exhibited scholastic as well as personal leadership skills. The scholarships are awarded to encourage exceptional students to remain committed to a career in the construction industry.

The Foundation also hopes to influence these students to look for employment in Alabama and within the concrete and concrete products area of the industry.



GRADUATING FRIENDS... Recent graduates from Auburn University include, Joe Jacobs (Elba) and friends, (l-r) Meredith Bowman, Amy Witherspoon, Jacobs, and Grant Threath. Graduation exercises were held June 13 in the Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum. Jacobs is the son of Harry and Cathy Jacobs of Elba.



DEBBIE MCCOLLOUGH, SUSAN NUNN, and LaSHAWN RUSSELL of Elba were among over 100 graduates participating in Enterprise State Junior College's 31st commencement. Guest speaker for the exercises was Dr. Ethel Hall, State Board of Education vice president and representative of District Four. Dr. Hall issued an unusual challenge to graduates in the form of "I dare you." She proceeded to challenge the graduates to dare to succeed, to dare to face each problem with courage, to dare to face each possibility with enthusiasm, to dare to turn adversity into triumph, to dare to believe you are just as good as anybody else. She dared them to try, love, and risk: those who risk nothing become nothing.

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3 - Bedroom Townhouses  
Units available for elderly, handicapped & disabled

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Water, sewage, Garbage  
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On site laundry facilities  
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Mon. - Fri.  
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Laura Brown is freshman leader at TSU.

Troy State University student Laura Brown of Elba has been selected as one of 12 pre-college orientation leaders to help freshmen and transfer students make a smooth transition to life at TSU.

Brown, a theatre/speech communications major, is the daughter of Tom and June Brown of Elba. "PCO leaders are chosen based on quality, sound academics, well-roundedness and friendship," said Buddy Starling, assistant dean of enrollment services and PCO supervisor. "We try to pass these traits along to the new students."

During the summer, several two-day PCO sessions will be held to acquaint incoming students with TSU. PCO leaders will conduct tours for incoming students and help them with pre-registration for fall classes. They also arrange activities to help incoming students get acquainted with each other.

## THIS INCREDIBLE CLEARANCE SALE ENDS THURSDAY NIGHT!

# Final 9 Hours!

## Skinner's Furniture

Starts at 9 AM...Ends at 6 PM...Final Day!!!  
The Most Amazing Clearance Sale in Our 64 Year History  
Ends With Nine Incredible Hours Thursday!

THURSDAY - FINAL DAY  
9 HOURS ONLY!  
SAVE UP TO 60% FOR THE FINAL DAY ONLY

INCREDIBLE FINAL DAY MARKDOWNS!

Sorry No Layaways or Hold Orders at Final 9 Hour Price Reductions

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Accent Table  
LIMITED QUANTITIES  
\$9.88

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Selected Bunk Beds  
NOW ONLY \$188

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Vanity & Bench  
Attractive  
NOW ONLY \$88

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

All Odd Nightstands  
60% OFF  
Regular Price

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

4 PC Dinette  
ONLY \$188

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

All Jewelry Chests  
Entire Stock  
40% OFF  
Regular Price

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

All Desks  
Entire Stock  
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Regular Price

Certified Savings

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- Every Living Room
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- Every Recliner
- Every Wall Unit
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- Every Dinette
- Every Accessory

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90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

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Skinner's

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Elba, AL • 897-2800

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Brass Curio & Mirror  
ONLY \$188

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

All Lamps & Pictures  
Entire Stock  
50% OFF  
Regular Price

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

All Orleans & Pulaski Curios  
30% OFF  
Regular Price

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Assortment Wing-Back Charis  
60% OFF  
Reg. Price

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Footstool  
Now Only \$12.88

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Sewing Box  
Now Only \$48.00

It's Over Thursday At 6 PM

Pre-Owned Furniture  
Up To 50% OFF

## WAREHOUSE LIQUIDATION \* SALE \*

BRAND NEW Clothing For The Plus Size Lady  
Sizes Small - 3X  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 10:00 A.M.

Labels Include:

Howard Wolf IB Diffusion Leslie Faye  
Robert Scott Karen Kane Platinum  
Liz Claiborne Carol Little Reginade Porter

All Merchandise is Marked 70 % Off.

Thats Correct. 70% OFF

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Hwy. 84, Across From Subway  
Elba, AL 897-5504 For More Information  
Shop Early For Best Selections.

A SAFE & HAPPY 4th



## View From The Pressbox with Ricky Mularz

Melanie attended her first Vacation Bible School of the summer last week, and after a somewhat hectic first day, really had a great time. We thought that Bible School was being held in the morning, and on Monday left her at the church after noticing a lot of cars in the parking lot. Around 11:00 that morning she walked in the front door and told Mom that Bible School wasn't in the morning, but at night. After being asked where she had been for the past three hours, she just smiled and said she had stayed at the church and played with the kids at church's Daycare. Once we got the times right, Melanie was never late, or early, again, and is now ready to find another Bible School to attend.

### GIRL'S ALL-STARS REPRESENT ELBA WELL AT DISTRICT

The four All-Star teams from the Elba Girl's Softball League all competed at the District 8 tournaments last weekend and all represented their league and the City of Elba well, as one team qualified for the State Tournament, one claimed two wins, one claimed one win, and the other battled a Dothan team to the wire before dropping two straight games.

The "16 and Under" All-Stars hosted their tournament and claimed three straight wins to open the event to claim third place and earn a spot at the State Tournament. The All-Stars had a hard time getting together to practice due to various sports camps and vacations, but came together in the tournament and came very close to winning the whole thing. The team made some big errors that cost it some runs in crucial situations, but allowed only 25 runs in five games, and had more outstanding defensive plays than it did errors. The bats began to get silent as the tournament progressed, and the All-Stars scored only 11 runs in their final three games, which led to their elimination. Everyone associated with the team wanted to win the tournament; however, they were all proud of the girls, and rightfully so. Oh yes, this 16 and Under team had only two sixteen-year-olds on the team, which should make next season one to watch.

The "14 and Under" All-Stars made the long ride up to Eufaula on Friday night and got shelved by the defending state champs from Troy, but never gave up and came back on Saturday and battled a Dothan team until the final out before being eliminated. The All-Stars were a little short-handed in certain positions, which is never good news at an All-Star tournament, but the players had a hard time getting together to practice and play against Dothan proved that they were indeed a very good team. This team was also very young, with only two fourteen-year-olds on the team. Look out next year.

The "12 and Under" All-Stars traveled to Andalusia for their tournament and bounced back from an opening game blow-out to win two games before being eliminated. The All-Stars got embarrassed in their opening game and many of their fans were hard to hear, but that is exactly what the girls did, as they claimed two wins before running head first into one of the powerful Dothan teams. This bunch practiced hard and played four practice games against teams from other cities to help it get ready, and their two wins showed the desire of the players.

The "10 and Under" All-Stars rode across the county to Enterprise and claimed one win before being ousted. The girls in this league made quite an adjustment from a year ago and worked hard, rain or shine, in practice to get ready for the tournament. The win over Eufaula was the only one of the tournament for the youngest of the All-Star teams; however, it proved to the girls and parents that the newly-formed league did pay dividends and that the girls learned a lot about softball. Next year they should take another giant step forward.

### BASEBALL ALL-STARS ARE READY TO HIT THE FIELD

The six All-Star teams from the various baseball leagues are either in action or getting ready to hit the field this week, and all six teams appear to have solid teams, both as an assistant and the last two years as the head coach, and his departure from the sidelines will create a void at a time when the program is already struggling to regain its rich winning tradition of the past. Last year's 4-7 record, coupled with heavy losses to graduation, already had the most optimistic Tiger fans worried, and now that Coach Lowery has stepped down, there aren't many people looking forward to the start of the season. This is a crucial time for the football program at Elba High School, and I just hope the administration can honestly say when the search for a new coach is over that they got the "very best" man available for the job.

### LOWERY RESIGNATION COMES AS TOTAL SURPRISE

It came as a total surprise last week when the announcement came that Elba Tiger head football coach David Lowery had given up his football duties. Coach Lowery had been a very important part of the Elba High football program for many years, both as an assistant and the last two years as the head coach, and his departure from the sidelines will create a void at a time when the program is already struggling to regain its rich winning tradition of the past. Last year's 4-7 record, coupled with heavy losses to graduation, already had the most optimistic Tiger fans worried, and now that Coach Lowery has stepped down, there aren't many people looking forward to the start of the season. This is a crucial time for the football program at Elba High School, and I just hope the administration can honestly say when the search for a new coach is over that they got the "very best" man available for the job.

## To find out what is happening in sports in the area, read.... THE ELBA CLIPPER

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The Coffee County Board of Education announces that applications for the following teaching position are now being accepted:

#### SECONDARY

Cooperative Education Teacher

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** An applicant must have a valid Alabama vocational teacher's certificate. High school certification is desired, but not required and will receive consideration.

The following employment procedures will be adhered to:

1. An application may be received from the Coffee County School system at the following address and should be submitted to the same address:  
**Coffee County Board of Education  
400 Reddick Hill Road  
Elba, Alabama 36323  
(334) 897-5016**
2. Applications will be received until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9, 1997.
3. All applications will be reviewed by the appropriate principal and supervisor who will arrange necessary interviews.
4. Recommendations will be submitted to the superintendent by the principal and supervisor.
5. The superintendent will make recommendations to the Board for action.
6. All applicants interviewed will receive written notification of action taken.

The Coffee County Board of Education does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability in any of its educational or employment programs or activities.

## The Elba Clipper Sports Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

### 16 and Under Stars qualify for state tourney

## Girl's All-Stars claim tournament wins

#### "16 AND UNDER"

The Elba 16 and Under All-Stars claimed three wins to finish third in the District 8 Tournament, in Elba, and earned a spot in next weekend's State Tournament.

The Elba All-Stars opened the tournament against the Abbeville team and rolled to an easy 10-0 win. The All-Stars failed to score in the opening two innings, but broke loose in the third and fourth innings to claim the win. Amber Frederick collected 2 hits, including a home-run and triple, to lead Elba at the plate, while Michelle Lewis and Melissa Mularz both added 2 hits, and Vaughan Boyd added a home-run. The Elba defense limited Abbeville to only 3 hits.

The "10 and Under" All-Stars claimed one win in Enterprise, while the "12 and Under" All-Stars posted two wins in Andalusia, and the "14 and Under" All-Stars played two games in Eufaula.

Following are highlights of the All-Star tournaments:

### FINAL STANDINGS ELBA DIXIE YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

	W	L
Cardinals	9	2
Braves	8	4
A's	8	4
Diamondbacks	5	8
Marlins	4	7
Royals	1	10

### ELBA DIXIE MINOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

	W	L
Red Sox	13	1
Phillies	8	5
Dodgers	8	6
Rays	4	8
White Sox	4	8
Brewers	2	11

## Cardinals and Red Sox take banners in baseball leagues

The Elba Dixie Youth and Dixie Minor Baseball Leagues closed out their regular season last week with the Cardinals and Red Sox claiming league titles.

Following are highlights of the final week's action:

\*\*\*The Marlins put two runs on the scoreboard in the second inning and held on to edge past the Braves 2-1. Sam Wambles got 1 hit and scored a run to lead the Marlins, while Brandon Arnold and Jason Danley also added one hit apiece. Freddy Mallory got 1 hit and scored a run to lead the Braves, while Justin Allen and Colby Capps both added one hit.

\*\*\*The A's pulled ahead early and pulled away late to ease past the Royals 8-4. Brandon Petty got 1 hit and scored 2 runs to lead the A's, while Ben Dye also scored 2 runs. Lonnorris Smith got 1 hit and scored one run for the Royals.

\*\*\*The Red Sox staged a late rally to rip the Brewers 6-2. Brett Parrish got 2 hits to lead the Red Sox, while Drew Donaldson got 1 hit and scored 2 runs. Marquize Tyson got 1 hit and scored a run to lead the Brewers.

\*\*\*The Red Sox staged a late rally to edge past the Dodgers 9-8. Stephen Hines got 1 hit and scored 2 runs for the Red Sox, while Ted Eubank also scored 2 runs. Daniel Parker scored twice for the Dodgers.

\*\*\*The Phillies scored early and often to down the Dodgers 18-6. Matt Hattaway and Wesley Doug Golden led the Phillies, while Mason Guiley scored 4 runs. Bradley Kane and Reynard Rogers also scored 3 runs each. Adam White got 1 hit and scored a run for the Dodgers.

\*\*\*The Diamondbacks pulled ahead early and held on late to down the A's 8-4. Tyler Simmons and Eric Brown both got 2 hits and scored 2 runs to lead the A's, while D'Backs, while Ralston Moore got 2 hits for the A's.

\*\*\*The Dodgers scored 10 runs in their final home game, as they defeated the Rays 19-18, in a game marred by 35 walks. Luke Simmons, Daniel Parker, Matt Hattaway and Wesley Doug Golden all scored 3 runs for the Dodgers, while Taylor McGuire and Hunter McGuire scored 3 runs each for the Rays.

\*\*\*The Red Sox staged a late rally to defeat the Brewers 11-9. Brandon Darryn, Brett Parrish, Mark Windham and Junior Bryant all scored 2 runs for the Red Sox, while Marquize Tyson, Luke Taylor, Clark Skinner and Curtis Chandler all scored twice for the Brewers.

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second win in opening night action by ripping Enterprise 14-3. The All-Stars jumped out to an early 6-0 lead in the game and then added seven runs in the final two innings to wrap up the lopsided win. Kendra Vaughan got 3 hits, including 2 home-runs, to lead the All-Stars at the plate, while Amber Frederick and Lindsay Jared both added 3 hits, and Melissa Mularz and Leslie Stinson added 2 hits each.

The Elba All-Stars spotted Ozark an early 4-0 lead and then rallied to post an exciting 5-4 win, in nine innings. The All-Stars cut the lead to 4-2 in the third, pulled even in the seventh, and then pulled out the win in the ninth to remain unbeaten. Melissa Mularz got 3 hits, knocked in 3 runs, including the game winning RBI, and scored one run, to lead Elba at the plate, while Kendra Vaughan and Lindsay Jared both added 2 hits, and LeeAnn Griffin and Amber Frederick all added 2 hits. Lindsey Jared made 7 put-outs in left-field to shine on defense.

The Elba All-Stars suffered their first loss in the double-elimination event by falling to Andalusia 6-2, in the finals of the winner's bracket. The All-Stars trailed only 3-2 heading into the bottom of the sixth, only to see Andalusia score three runs, including the game winning RBI, and scored one run, to lead Elba at the plate, while Kendra Vaughan and Lindsay Jared both added 2 hits, and LeeAnn Griffin and Amber Frederick all added 2 hits. Lindsey Jared made 7 put-outs in left-field to shine on defense.

The Elba All-Stars saw their tournament come to an end with a 12-4 loss to the Abbeville Reds. The All-Stars fell behind 7-1 in the third inning and never caught up as they suffered their second loss and settled for third place. Amber Frederick ripped two triples to lead Elba at the plate, while Melissa Mularz, Leslie Stinson and LeeAnn Griffin all added 2 hits.

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## Alabama's Covered Bridges...A historic link to the past

By Wyndel Elland

As you let your mind drift back to a by-gone era, imagine yourself traveling by foot down a lonely stretch of dirt road. Up ahead the road begins to dip down toward the river. Looming there in the fading light is a dark, mysterious tunnel that you must travel through to reach your destination.

The sun has already set and the shadows are beginning to lengthen, especially along the river bank and on the sides of the old wooden structure.

Your pace begins to quicken and your heart beats faster as you try not to think of all the stories you've heard about this old covered bridge... stories about strange sounds, ghostly images, and horses not wanting to enter the dark interior.

You especially remember the rumor of a murder that supposedly took place here one cold December night. Now as you approach the entrance you are filled with uncertainty as all those stories flash before your memory.

The light at the far end seems so far away as you pause for a moment then plunge into the growing darkness at a much more rapid pace. A stirring breeze caresses a cold chill to engulf you. The timbers creak with a sound that all be heard above your quickened footsteps and the splashing of the river down below.

After what seems like an eternity, you emerge into the remaining light at the far end and the road begins to climb away from the river. Suddenly you hear a wailing cry that is so bone-chilling it stops you in your tracks.

As you glance back toward the now dark scene, you catch a brief glimpse of a strange light hovering inside the bridge. Quickly you head on toward your destination. Later when you recount this story, you will be left to ponder: did I really see and hear that, or was it just my imagination?

This scene and similar ones were probably repeated many times in the distant past when covered bridges were common. Likewise these bridges hold many fond memories.

There were times of sunny days and picnics when the children played in and around them or swam in the streams below. And of course many lives were stolen by sweethearts beneath the old weathered beams.

More than 15,000 of these marvelous old timbered tunnels dotted the landscape one time. Fewer than 900 remain today, mostly in states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Oregon.

Parke County, Indiana, with an unbelievable 32, is the undisputed Covered Bridge Capital of the World. Only about 100 are still standing in the south, including 12 in Alabama. In early America, the only means of transportation was by foot or horseback. The bridges were therefore a vital link because they gave people a safe way to cross streams and rivers.

The Golden Age of covered bridges lasted from around 1830 to about 1940. With abundant labor and vast stands of virgin forests available, the bridges could be built quickly and cheaply. Heartening lumber provided strong, decay-proof support timbers.

The fact that these bridges were covered is what sets them apart from other type bridges. The traditional reason given for the coverings was to prevent horses from being spooked by the moving water below.

Actually, the coverings provided more practical reasons: they gave shelter for people who traveled by foot or horseback. But mainly they protected the floors and sides of the bridges from the elements. The side framing of these bridges known as trusses is what gave them their load-bearing capability.

Among the common truss types used were Queenpost, Kingpost, Strainer, and Burr Arch. The most popular truss type in the south was the Town or Lattice Truss. Invented in 1830, it would support greater weights and allow for longer spans. Most of the Alabama bridges used this truss type. Of the more than 200 covered bridges built in our state, only 12 of the original ones remain.

When the modern bridge era began, wood was abandoned in favor of concrete and steel. The need for two-lane roads and greater weight-bearing capability caused the wooden bridge to fall out of favor. Many were by-passed and torn down or they simply collapsed due to neglect. Floods took their toll.

Arson fires, especially in recent years, have added to the destruction. One such recent loss was Nectar Bridge located in Blount County. This irreplaceable state treasure was 385 feet long, making it the fourth longest covered bridge in the U.S. The 1922 landmark was still in use for vehicle traffic when it was totally destroyed by a fire in June, 1993.

On a personal note, I was lucky enough to see and drive through Nectar in April, just two months before the fire. The photos I took that sunny day are probably among the last taken of this grand old structure.

In recent years public awareness of covered bridges has increased dramatically. Much work has been and is being done to save them. Many individuals and groups have worked tirelessly on their behalf.

One such group is the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. This dedicated group of people is in the forefront of bridge preservation. Most of the remaining covered bridges have had at least some repair work done to them; many have had extensive restoration work done.

A number have been moved to places such as city parks in order to better preserve them.

A good example of extensive restoration is Cornish-Windsor bridge spanning the Connecticut River on the Vermont-New Hampshire border. This is the longest covered bridge in the U.S. Over 4 million dollars was spent on this 1866 landmark to preserve and re-open it to vehicle traffic.

The battle to save these old bridges is an ongoing process. Public awareness of their beauty, historic significance, and economic value is perhaps the key to saving them.

In the last several years a number of new covered bridges have been built. Most, however, don't have load-bearing trusses, so bridge purists don't consider them authentic and call them "romantic shelters."

Alabama has several of these "new" covered bridges; hopefully even more will be built in coming years.

Of special interest to bridge fans is that at least one New England company is still building covered bridges using original methods and building components.

If you would like to visit some of Alabama's bridges, you might want to start with the three in Blount County. They are all located within 10 miles of the city of Oneonta.

These bridges were built in the 1820's and are still open to vehicle traffic.

Easley is 96 feet long and spans a tiny stream called Dub Branch.

Horton Mill is 220 feet long and at 70 feet above the river bed, is said to be the highest covered bridge above water in the U.S. There is a trail down to the river where you can get great photo shots of the bridge high overhead.

Swann-Joy crossing the Black Warrior River is something special. It's a classic example of a stunning old bridge in a scenic location. At 336 feet, it's the longest in the south.

Clarkson, built in 1904, and Lidy Walker, built in 1926.

Clarkson is 270 feet long and is a favorite with bridge buffs. It is high over Crooked Creek just west of Cullman.

Lidy Walker at 50 feet is Alabama's shortest. It spans the outlet to a lake on private property just east of Cullman.

Talladega County also has two: Waldo, just south of Talladega and Kymulga near Childersburg. They are among the state's oldest, dating to around 1860. There is a restaurant on the 1.5-foot-long Waldo bridge and a historic grist mill beside Kymulga, which is 105 feet long.

Both bridges cross Talladega Creek in their original locations.

Gilliland Bridge is 90 feet long and is located at Noccalula Falls Park in Gadsden. It dates back to 1867 and was moved to the park in 1967.

Alamuchee is located on the campus of the University of West Alabama in Livingston. This 88-foot Civil War era bridge was moved to the campus where it spans a quiet lake.

Coldwater is located at Oxford Lake Park just south of Anniston. The 60-foot bridge was moved here in 1990. It's the state's oldest, dating to 1850 and possibly as early as 1834. This would make it one of the oldest in the nation.

In Coosa County Oakachoy Bridge, built in 1915, is located just north of Equality. A small park is planned for the area around this 56-foot bridge spanning rocky Oakachoy Creek.

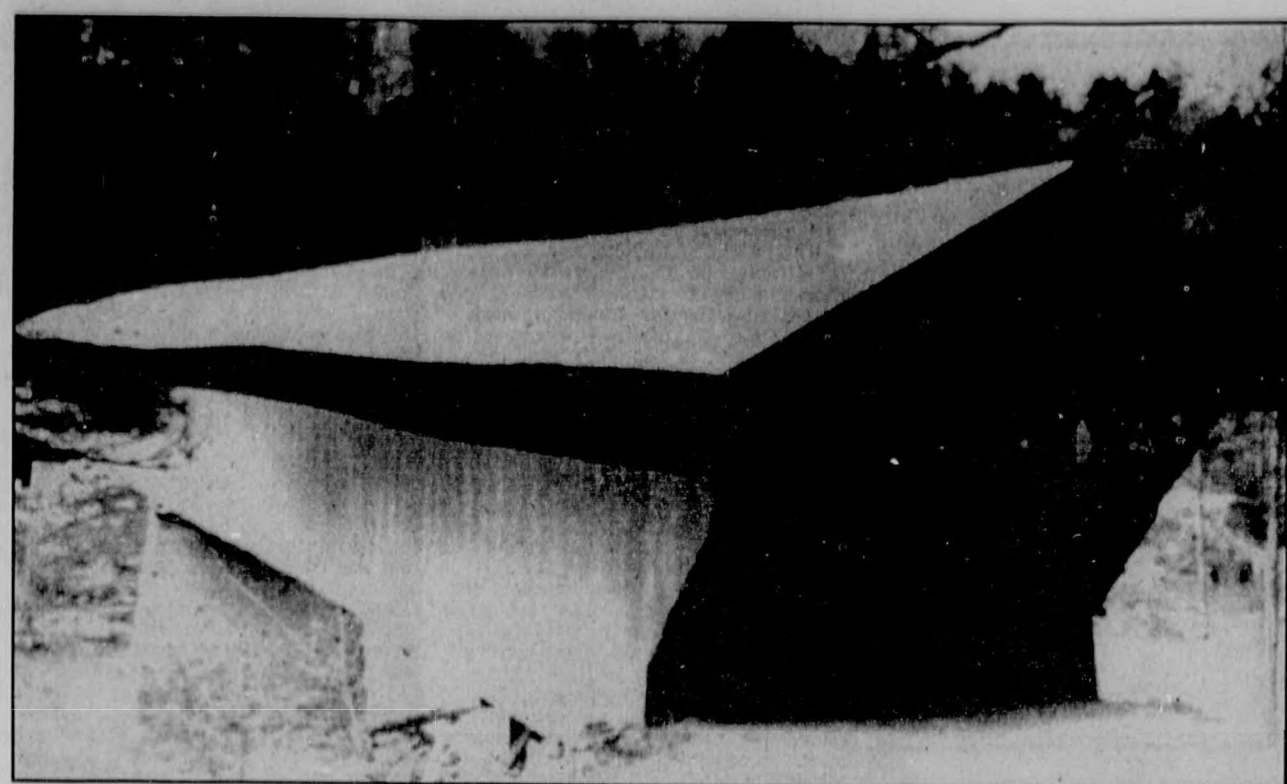
Finally, Alabama's southernmost authentic covered bridge is Salem Shotwell located in the Salem Community just south of Opelika. It's considered one of the nation's best examples of Town Truss construction.

White Oak pews called tunnels were used to hold the lattice framing in place on this 76-foot bridge built in 1900. There is current talk of moving this bridge away from its location on Wachoochee Creek to a more public location to better protect it from vandalism.

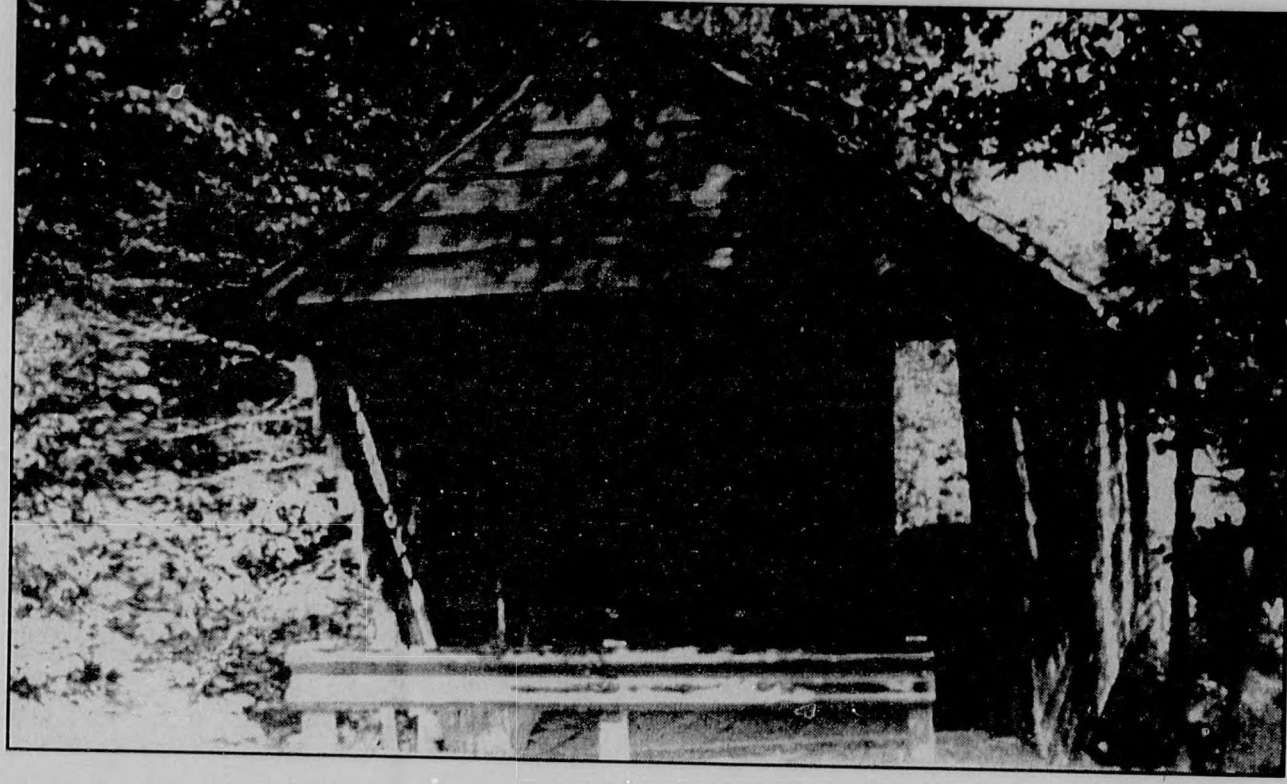
We can no longer visit such notable Alabama bridges as Nectar, Horseshoe Bend, Duck Springs, Hayden, Buzzard's Roost, and Pintalala Creek, but we can make every effort to preserve and protect the few we have left. They are such an integral part of Alabama history and a vital link to our past.

Why not plan to visit one or more of these "wooden wonders" in your travels this year. When you do, please remember three things: (1) Make pictures; (2) Drive through the bridge if it's still open to vehicle traffic; and (3) If you are with your sweetheart, don't forget to steal a kiss.

Happy Bridging.



**SWANN BRIDGE**... Swann Covered Bridge is located in Blount County west of Oneonta. At 336 feet, it's the longest covered bridge in the south. It was built in 1933 and is still in use for vehicle traffic. Swann Bridge crosses the Black Warrior River and is a classic example of a stunning old bridge in a scenic location.



**OAKACHOY BRIDGE**... Oakachoy Covered Bridge is located in Coosa County at the dead end of a dirt road north of Equality. It was built in 1916 at a cost of \$400. The scenic little backwoods bridge is 56 feet long and spans rocky Oakachoy Creek. There are plans for a park to be developed in the area of the bridge.

## Extension Service News With Richard Petcher

Richard Petcher-County Agent



Gary Lees from Australia

Gary Lees is with us from Australia. He is 25 years old and works with Seed and Grain lama in Australia. The main crops he works with there are cotton and wheat. He is on a three-month business exchange program and is here in Coffee County working and being hosted by Dixie Ag in Kinston.

Australia is a place most of us would like to go. And in the world of agriculture and cotton talk the name of Australia comes up often. Besides raising crocodiles and kangaroos they raise a whole lot of cotton. They are the world's 5th largest cotton producer to be exact.

The other crops that Lees works with are soybeans, sorghum, sunflower, mung beans, fava beans, wheat, barley, oats, chick peas, and canola. It is too hot and dry for corn there.

Australia grows 750,000 acres of cotton which is predominantly irrigated. The average yield is 3.2 bales per acre. Four-bale yield is common and occasionally 5 bales because of the irrigation.

The farming is very capital intensive. Production costs on cotton are typically \$1000 per acre, so yields have to be high to cover expenses. A small portion of the drop is dry land.

Annual rainfall is 24 inches per year, only 8 inches during the growing season. Temperatures go up to 115 degrees F. The soil type is high

clay enabling them to store a lot of subsoil water. Dry land costs \$2-300 per acre, so if yields go one bale it has been a very good season.

The major cotton pests are the heliothis, which are similar to tobacco bud worm and boll worms here. They normally spray 10 to 12 times.

Minor pests are thrips, aphids, plant bugs and mites. The majority of the spraying is done at night because of the heat.

Australia has had cotton for only 30 years now, so it is a relatively new crop to them. However, they are on the razor edge of technology, and are learning a great deal from other countries in the cotton industry.

Lees is here to learn different farming systems and to see how other agricultural companies operate. He took advantage of the opportunity to broaden his horizons and to see more of the world. Working with Dixie Ag this summer with the sales representatives he will also be scouting cotton for insects, bugs and other things of interest.

Lees is amazed at several things here. For example the size of the paddocks. The average field here is often 5 to 25 acres, while in Australia it is 4-500 acres. Of course in Australia the people drive on the left side of the road.

In Kinston and in the south, Lees is enjoying the friendliness of the people, the multitude of fast food restaurants; and there are 62 channels on TV here versus 4 channels in Australia.

It is always a blessing to have someone with us from another part of the world.

If you hear someone with a different brogue or see someone driving on the wrong side of the road - it might be Gary Lees.

The other day I visited with Mr. D.L. and Mrs. Jewel Padgett in Elba. If anyone wants to do it is to want to. Mr. D.L. is 90 and Mrs. Jewel is 79 years young.

They are famous for their scuppernons, but I went to see their blue lake pole beans. They have a trellis 30 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 7 feet high. They use treated 4-inch posts and a wire 8 inches off the ground so they could fertilize and weed and work the soil. They keep the soil pretty loose so the bean roots can run out.

They use chicken litter as well as soil test and add whatever the soil test requires - it is usually 15-0-15 fertilizer.

They plant somewhere around Good Friday, and plant stringless blue lake pole beans, because you don't have to string them. They also plant cucumbers, sunflowers and eggplant along the arbor.

When it is dry they water the beans about every 4 days soaking the ground well. They also spray them with a mixture of Malathion

and Daconil, using 1 tablespoon of Malathion and 1 tablespoon of Daconil in one gallon of water. This controls the insects and diseases.

They spray about every 10 to 12 days when it is dry and more often when it is rainy.

Keeping your beans picked and then side-dressing them about every three weeks will encourage them to keep on bearing. Some beans have been known to bear all summer, through fall until frost.

The beans will generally climb the wire with no help, but the cucumbers need encouraging to get started, then they do fine.

When you look up and see all of those beans and cucumbers just hanging there it makes gardening a pleasure.

DRIGGERS RETIRES FROM GTE...Recently, William Lloyd Driggers retired from GTE (April 30, 1997) after more than 37 years of service. Driggers went to work with United Telephone & Telegraph Company on October 19, 1959. In 1960, United sold out to GTE. Lloyd credited his brother, the late Herman Driggers, with assisting him in getting the job with the telephone company. Herman was killed in the line of duty while serving as assistant chief of police for the city of Elba. Lloyd's main duty station was working with GTE as Coffee County, however, during his many years of service, he worked in several South Alabama counties. He estimates that during his time with GTE, he drove between 10 to 20 different vehicles traveling close to 1,000,000 miles. "During the 38 years, I never had a vehicle accident or a personal injury on the job," said Driggers. "I give the good Lord credit for those two miracles." Lloyd's most memorable experience with the telephone company was the Flood of 1990, but he's quick to add, there were also many, many others he can easily recall.

SEED SPLITTING CONTEST...A watermelon seed spitting contest was held as one of the many events at Coffee County's Farmers Market in New Brockton last week. Pictured above is Little Miss New Brockton Bethany Milligan as she tries her hand at spitting seed.

## FREEZING & CANNING TIPS

Sandra Coffey  
County Agent Coordinator

The following are some freezing and canning tips for fresh vegetables:

**Canning Tomatoes:**  
Hot Pack Method - Use firm, red, ripe tomatoes. Wash, peel, core, and cut them into quarters. Heat to boiling and pack hot. Add 1 teaspoon salt per quart. You can add 1/4 teaspoon citric acid USP grade to each pint (1/2 teaspoon per quart) to lower the pH level. Add it after filling each jar about half full. Adjust jar lids and bands. Process in a boiling waterbath canner (212°F) - pint jars, 35 minutes; quart jars, 45 minutes.

If you have been processing your tomatoes in the pressure canner, you are killing all of your Vitamin C. This is why we recommend the waterbath method.

**Raw packing is no longer recommended.** It has been found that a highly heat resistant mold is able to survive during the processing of raw-packed tomatoes. When this mold grows, it changes the pH of the tomatoes from a high acid to a low acid product. The canned tomatoes then become susceptible to the growth of *Clostridium botulinum*. This microorganism produces a toxin that can cause death.

**Canning Corn**  
Cream Style, Hot Pack - Husk corn, remove silks, and wash. Cut corn from cob at about center of kernel and then scrape cob.

To each quart can add one pint boiling water. Heat to boiling. Use pint containers only. Pack hot to within 1 inch of top. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt to each pint jar. Adjust jar lids and bands. Process in pressure canner at 10 pounds pressure (240°F) - pint jars, 85 minutes.

**Whole Kernel, Hot Pack** - Only freshly gathered, young, tender corn should be canned. Cut corn from the cob deeply enough to remove most of each kernel.

To each quart can add one pint boiling water. Heat to boiling. Pack corn to within one inch of top. Cover with hot cooking liquid, leaving one-inch headspace. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt to each pint; one teaspoon (240°F) - pint jars, 85 minutes.

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## New Brockton council meeting smooth

by Marvin MolLwin - Editor

Monday night's meeting of the New Brockton Town Council was brief and to the point. It took council members less than thirty minutes to conduct the town's business.

After noting that all council members were present, Mayor Britt Lee led the council through the business session.

Following a brief discussion concerning garbage/trash fees, Mayor Lee recommended that the fee be set at \$30 per load. This charge will only apply to individuals who own property in New Brockton but are not paying monthly garbage/trash collection fees.

The city clerk introduced, for the record, an ordinance, No. 97-002, dealing with the disposition of wrecked, dismantled and non-operating vehicles within the city limits of New Brockton.

Council members will review the ordinance and it will be voted on at the next meeting.

Councilman Rodger Harrison asked if this was not already an ordinance. Mayor Lee commented that for some reason only a part of an ordinance dealing with this problem was recorded in the present book of ordinances; therefore, a new ordinance will have to be enacted.

Under the heading of unfinished business, the council passed the ordinance, No. 97-001, instituting a personnel management system for the Town of New Brockton.

Also, two resolutions were passed in conjunction with the passage of the above mentioned ordinance.

The first one dealt with the adoption of the rules and regulations set forth in the ordinance. The second

resolution addressed the classification plan which establishes requirements for the different positions of employment within the town.

A third resolution was introduced for members of the council to review and be voted on at the next meeting. This resolution concerns the adoption of a uniform pay plan for the employees of the town.

Turning to other business, the council approved for payment monthly bills totaling \$21,104.55. City Clerk Annette Williams noted that the bills were higher this month due to payment of a \$4,000 attorney fee and the premium on the town's insurance coverage.

Mayor Britt noted that the town still had a balance of more than \$22,000.00 in the town's coffers after payment of all bills.

In the absence of Police Chief Charles Driggers, Lt. Jerry Gilbert gave a report of the department's activities for the month of June.

He stated that the police department had answered 8 complaints, made 4 arrests, and issued 17 traffic citations.

Lt. Gilbert noted that the rescue squad had answered 10 runs while the fire department had responded to a grass and automobile fire.

He commented that there were no accidents investigated during the month and that five dogs had been taken to the pound.

A request for ammunition to be used by the officers of the department in weapons qualification was approved by the council.

Also, after a brief discussion, the cost of repairs to a fence damaged at the county highway department by a police car was approved. The lone estimate of \$600 was received from

ROUTE IS NORTH OF DOWNTOWN  
Highway 84 four-laning proposed route presented Tuesday

The Alabama Highway Department held a public meeting in Elba Tuesday evening to present their proposed route for the long discussed four-laning of U. S. 84 from Enterprise to Andalusia. Highway Department officials were also inviting opinions and input from interested citizens.

Over 200 interested citizens attended the informal meeting, which was held at Elba Elementary School. Of interest to Elba residents is the plan to route the 4 lane North of the downtown area. It will leave the existing highway, East of town at the old Matthews (or Twin Oaks) Store.

The route will cross Brunson Farm, behind the existing home of Mr. Brunson. It will cross Pea River and join the existing bypass, eliminating the home or Police Chief R. V. Whitworth.

The route will follow the bypass around town and rejoin the existing Highway 84. The plan appears to cut through the Dixie Ford building and the Big Little Convenience Store

building. The widening will eliminate the RanchHouse Restaurant, the stockyards and Blackmon Seed and Feed building as it knifes toward Opp.

At Opp the route will join the to be constructed 321 bypass and go South of town, rejoining the existing 84 West of Hom Hill Road, enroute to Andalusia.

Driving East to New Brockton, the four-lane will eliminate the railroad bed behind the home of Mildred DeVaughan. It will go between the homes of L. A. Boyd and his son Lee Boyd.

The road will rejoin the existing Highway 84 at the intersection of West of Double Bridges.

On display for public review were Air Quality Assessments, Environmental Assessments, Endangered Species Assessments, Noise Analysis, Wetland Analyses, Hazardous Waste Analysis and Cultural Resource Reconnaissance.

The actual work is years away, as no funds are allocated for this work.

There will be a Farmers Market every Saturday during the growing season. Farmers are invited to bring their excess produce to the square in downtown Elba. Parking will be made available inside the courthouse square.

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